

Message Text

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SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE ON INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES RELATING TO THE OZONE LAYER

REF: STATE 229503

FOR YOUR INFORMATION, FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE, DATED SEPT. 13, RELATING TO THE RELEASE ON SAME DATE OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF FLUOROCARBONS ON THE STRATOSPHERIC OZONE LAYER.

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"THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES TODAY RELEASED ITS

REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF FLUOROCARBONS ON THE STRATOSPHERIC OZONE LAYER. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS AWAITED THIS REPORT WITH GREAT INTEREST. IT CONSTITUTES SIGNIFICANT FURTHER EXAMINATION OF THE ISSUE AND SUBSTANTIATES THE VIEW THAT OZONE DEPLETION WARRANTS SERIOUS FURTHER ATTENTION BOTH NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

THE U.S., IN COOPERATION WITH CANADA, ALREADY HAS INITIATED ACTION THROUGH THE ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT TO DETERMINE HOW MUCH FLUOROCARBONS ARE BEING PRODUCED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND HOW MUCH IS BEING RELEASED INTO THE ATMOSPHERE. A WORK PROGRAM HAS BEEN INITIATED IN THE OECD TO CONSIDER ECONOMIC AND OTHER IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE REGULATORY MEASURES WHICH MIGHT PROVE TO BE CALLED FOR ON AN INTERNATIONAL BASIS.

IN ANTICIPATION OF CONFIRMATION OF THE NEED FOR FURTHER EFFORTS IN THIS AREA, WHICH HAS NOW BEEN RECEIVED, THE DEPARTMENT--IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION, AND WORKING WITH OTHER CONCERNED U.S. AGENCIES--HAS OFFERED TO HOST A WORLDWIDE MEETING NEXT FEBRUARY IN WASHINGTON. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME. AN OBVIOUS REQUIREMENT IS FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE SEVERITY OF THE PROBLEM, WHICH CAN BE OBTAINED THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND MONITORING PROGRAMS. A MAJOR GOAL OF THE MEETING WILL THUS BE TO DETERMINE THE OPTIMUM INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF LABOR TO GET ACTION STARTED IN THOSE AREAS WHERE IT APPEARS GAPS EXIST.

IN PREPARATION FOR THE FEBRUARY MEETING, THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE ASKING THE CONCERNED U.S. AGENCIES TO REVIEW THE NEED FOR DOMESTIC ACTION IN ADDITION TO WORKING WITH OTHER COUNTRIES TO ASSESS ALL ASPECTS OF THIS POTENTIAL GLOBAL PROBLEM." ROBINSON

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